

Message Text

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44-S

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2682

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ROME 0488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: EMBTEL 0297 (NOTAL)

1. WE WERE TOLD JAN 12 BY MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI ABOUT EC-NINE POL DIRECTORS' DISCUSSIONS IN BONN OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO AN ENERGY CONFERENCE.

2. THE DIRECTORS WERE LARGELY UNINSTRUCTED BUT THE GERMANS CIRCULATED THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO BRANDT. DUCCI COMMENTED THAT THE STRONGLY NEGATIVE BELGIAN REACTION AT BEING EXCLUDED INITIALLY WAS RECEIVED SYMPATHETICALLY. HE ADDED THAT THE US RESPONSE ACCEPTING ATTENDANCE BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE NINE WAS EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED. DUCCI MANAGED TO CONSULT WITH ROME ABOUT THE MESSAGE AND WAS ABLE TO
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ADVOCATE THE PRELIMINARY GOI POSITION. THE ITALIANS URGED

THAT THE EC SHOULD PROMPTLY ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION AND THEN SHOULD DEVELOP A COMMON VIEW ON THE SUBSTANCE WHICH COULD BE PUT FORTH IN WASHINGTON. APPARENTLY MOST OF THE COUNTRIES HELD VIEWS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ITALY. DUCCI SAID THE FRENCH WERE RATHER CRIPTIC IN THEIR COMMENTS BUT WERE NOT RPT NOT BASICALLY NEGATIVE TO THE IDEA.

3. THE FONMINS OF THE NINE WILL MEET IN BRUSSELS MONDAY AND INTEND TO REACH A DECISION ON THE RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. BASED ON THE REACTION OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS, THE ITALIANS EXPECT THAT THE EC WILL DECIDE TO SEND SEPARATE, BUT MORE OR LESS IDENTICAL, LETTERS ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. BRANDT WILL PROBABLY INDICATE A DESIRE TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMISSION ALSO ATTEND. IN AN ASIDE, DUCCI COMMENTED THAT THE FRENCH NOW RPT NOW SEEM QUITE RELAXED ABOUT COMMISSION PARTICIPATION BECAUSE ORTOLI RECOGNIZES THAT THE TREND IS AWAY FROM SUPERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE AND REFLECTS THIS IN HIS BEHAVIOR. DUCCI COMMENTED THAT THE "HALLSTEIN DOCTRINE FOR THE EC COMMISSION" NO RPT NO LONGER APPLIES (WHICH DOES NOT PLEASE THE ITALIANS).

4. SEVERAL PAPERS IN ROME THIS MORNING REPORT AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN AL RAI AL AAM, A KUWAIT NEWSPAPER INDICATING THAT EVERY COUNTRY WHICH ACCEPTS AMERICAN INVITATION TO A CONFERENCE OF OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES WILL BE INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ENEMIES OF THE ARABS. THIS THREAT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED WITHIN THE FARNESINA AND THE GOI'S TENTATIVE REACTION IS THAT ALL EC MEMBERS SHOULD GO TO WASHINGTON TOGETHER AND SEE HOW THE ARABS REACT TO EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY. VOLPE

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR HALE.

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